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Agenda item 108

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/59/448/Add.3)*]

59/282. Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005

The General Assembly,

I

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of presenting the budgets of large missions in a manner that is more suitable for their size and complexity;

4. *Reiterates* that the charging of expenditures against the appropriation for special political missions is subject to the extension of the respective mandates;

5. *Notes* that an additional amount of 82,472,600 United States dollars is requested for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2005 and an additional amount of 701,800 dollars is requested for the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville for the period from 16 February to 15 August 2005, including the liquidation period;

[1] A/59/534/Add.3 and Corr.1.

[2] A/59/569/Add.3.

6. *Approves* the budgets of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville as set out in table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Decides* to appropriate, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 11 of annex I to its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005, the amount of 83,174,400 dollars for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville;

8. *Also decides* to appropriate the amount of 4,131,200 dollars under section 34, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;

II

Information and communication technology strategy

Recalling its resolutions 57/295 of 20 December 2002, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/126 B of 10 December 2004 and 59/265 of 23 December 2004,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the information and communication technology strategy[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

Acknowledging that investment in information and communication technology is not an end in itself and should be aimed at improving the quality and timely delivery of mandates in a cost-effective manner,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementing the information and communication technology strategy[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop and implement cost-neutral measures to provide Member States with secure access to the information currently accessible only on the Intranet ("iSeek") of the Secretariat in the working languages of the United Nations;

3. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts in the field of disaster recovery and security threats in the new Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat as well as in the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services of the Department of Management, and encourages all decision-takers involved to elaborate a comprehensive approach in this matter;

4. *Requests* a more detailed analysis of the return on investment and the impact of such investment on the quality and timeliness of service delivery and of the resource requirements resulting from information and communication technology projects, as described in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General,[3] in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007 and future budgets;

5. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts for the elaboration of a comprehensive information and communication technology strategy, and reiterates the need for further integration and compatibility of administrative platforms of the inter-agency network and,

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[3] A/59/265.

[4] A/59/558, paras. 2–18.

in this regard, invites the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to pay due attention to the issue;

6. *Recognizes* that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations are based on Latin script, which leads to difficulties in processing non-Latin and bidirectional scripts, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts so as to enhance the equality of the official languages of the United Nations;

7. *Takes note* that some projects listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General are on hold, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their implementation, as feasible;

8. *Recalls* of section II, paragraphs 9 and 10, of its resolution 59/266 of 23 December 2004, takes note of paragraph 5 of the report of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4] and requests the Secretary-General to report on measures to improve the Galaxy tool;

9. *Notes with appreciation* that public wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) hot spots have been made available in the Secretariat Building, and notes the intention of the Secretary-General to extend wireless coverage to the entire United Nations compound;

III

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Recalling section VIII of its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, its resolution 56/285 of 27 June 2002 and its resolution 57/289 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also Article 32 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as relevant General Assembly resolutions that govern the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[5] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report,[6] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

[5] A/C.5/59/2 and Corr.1.

[6] A/59/557.

2. *Reaffirms* the principle that conditions of service and compensation for non-Secretariat United Nations officials shall be separate and distinct from those of officials of the Secretariat;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in future reports on the conditions of service of the members of the Court and the judges of the Tribunals, to present clearly information on annual salaries payable in both United States dollars and the applicable local currency, with full information on the actual dollar requirements for the budget concerned;

4. *Decides*, with retroactive effect from 1 January 2005, to increase the annual salary of the members of the Court and the judges and ad litem judges of the Tribunals by 6.3 per cent, as an interim measure and pending a decision based on the report requested in paragraph 8 below;

5. *Also decides* that, with retroactive effect from 1 January 2005, the annual value of all pensions in payment shall be increased by 6.3 per cent as an interim measure and pending a decision based on the report requested in paragraph 8 below;

6. *Further decides* that, in addition to the provisions of paragraph 2 of its resolution 40/257 C of 18 December 1985, with retroactive effect from 1 January 2005, those members of the Court who have taken up and maintained a bona fide primary residence at The Hague for less than five continuous years during their service with the Court shall be eligible, upon the completion of their appointment and resettlement outside the Netherlands, to receive a lump sum prorated on the basis of the ceiling of eighteen weeks of annual net base salary that is payable to members of the Court who have served for five continuous years, and also decides that those members of the Court who have similarly taken up and maintained a bona fide primary residence at The Hague for more than five but less than nine continuous years shall be eligible upon the completion of their appointment and resettlement outside the Netherlands for a lump sum prorated on the basis of the ceiling of twenty-four weeks of annual net base salary that is payable to members of the Court who have served for nine continuous years or more;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the additional expenditures resulting from the above decisions in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 and the second performance reports on the budgets of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2004–2005;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, including proposals for a mechanism of remuneration based on market exchange rates and local retail price fluctuations that limits the divergence of such remuneration from that of comparable positions of seniority within the United Nations system, on the protection of pensions in payment to former judges and their survivors as well as on the differences between the pension benefits of the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on the one hand and the members of the International Court of Justice on the other;

9. *Decides* that the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda shall next be reviewed at its sixty-first session.

91st plenary meeting
13 April 2005